

**WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 13, 2015 – 8:00 AM**

1. MEETING TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cass County Weed Control Board was called to order at 8:00 AM on Monday, April 13, 2015, in the Weed Control Office building with the following members present: Clayton Brennan, George Grossman, Ken Hagen, Chris Murch, and Larry Wilcox. Also present were John Kringler, Cass County Extension Agent; Alicia Hildebrand, Cass County Accountant; Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner; and Stanley Wolf, Cass County Weed Control Officer.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION, passed

Mr. Murch moved and Mr. Grossman seconded to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2015. Motion carried.

3. AGENDA, Order approved

Mr. Wolf said he would like to add Work Order and MACAI Short Course for discussion under the New Business agenda item.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Murch moved and Mr. Grossman seconded to approve the order of the agenda with the addition of Work Order and MACAI Short Course under the New Business agenda item. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Alicia Hildebrand was present to discuss the 2014 year end and March financial statements.

The Weed Control Fund balance was \$264,492.41 at the end of 2014.

As of March 31, 2015, the Weed Control Fund balance was \$521,608.46. Eighty-three percent of property tax revenues have been received.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Grossman moved and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the 2014 Weed Control Balance Sheet and bills for March as presented. Motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Landowner Assistance Program

Mr. Wolf said he updated the language in the Landowner Assistant Program (LAP) policy and application to make clear that government entities are not eligible to apply as the program is for private landowners and operators only. The additional language was reviewed and approved by the Cass County State's Attorney office.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Grossman moved and Mr. Murch seconded to approve the additional language, "Government entities owning land are not eligible" to the Landowner Assistance Program policy and application. Motion carried.

Ms. Scherling asked if the change needs to be approved by the County Commission. Mr. Wolf said as the intent of the program eligibility was not changed, just clarified, he does not believe it needs to go before the Commission for approval.

Gravel Pit Inspection

Mr. Wolf said the need for a uniform gravel pit inspection form was discussed at the North Dakota Weed Control Association (NDWCA) conference in January. Mr. Wolf looked at forms from multiple counties to create a single form that can be utilized across the state. The new form can be modified to fit an individual county's needs and situation. The form was presented to the State Weed Board for input before a draft was sent out. Once the form has been finalized and approved by the NDWCA it will be made available to all Weed Control offices in the state.

State Noxious Weed List

Mr. Wolf said last month the North Dakota Department of Agriculture conducted a survey with an open comment period to review the state noxious weed list. It was determined that the list will remain unchanged.

As there was discussion at the last meeting on adding plumeless thistle to the county's noxious weed list, Mr. Wolf researched the process in which this would be done. The process would involve consulting with the County Extension Office and notifying the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, along with pinpointing areas of impact and total acreage affected. Ultimately, Mr. Wolf does not believe plumeless thistle should be added to the county noxious weed list, but he believes learning about the process was a valuable exercise.

Work Order

Mr. Wolf provided a copy of the work order form he sends to agencies that he provides spraying for. The rates are unchanged from last year. Mr. Wilcox clarified that Mr. Wolf only provides spraying for other governmental entities.

MACAI Short Course

Mr. Wolf said the Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors (MACAI) will have a conference July 13-15, in Park Rapids, MN. The registration fee is \$180 and room rates are \$90 a night. As the conference is in such close proximity, Mr. Wolf may want to attend a day's session, depending on the courses. There is no agenda at this time. Mr. Wilcox said as the agenda will most likely be out in time for the next meeting, the matter can be discussed at that time.

6. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Wolf said his new laptop computer is up and running.

The IT Department is now requiring all Cass County employees to complete a Cyber Awareness training program. The program consists of watching training modules and then answering related multiple choice questions. The Weed Control Department was the first department in the county to have a 100% completion rate.

The Kubota sprayer is almost ready for the season. The GPS equipment has been installed and inspected. Mr. Wolf will work on getting the Honda sprayer ready for the season as well.

All of the private pesticide applicator recertification meetings have been completed. Mr. Wolf assisted the Extension Department with the trainings.

The county Buildings and Grounds Department has offered to assist with the window replacement at the Weed Control building. The cost of the window will be approximately \$600, which will fit in this year's budget. Mr. Wolf has contacted one potential vendor and the Buildings and Grounds Department has another recommended vendor to contact about painting the building. The painting project will most likely come out of next year's budget.

Mr. Wolf has discussed going through training to become a state certified ATV instructor as there is currently only one instructor in the state. After consideration, Mr. Wolf will discuss the matter with the Cass County State's Attorney as there is a factor of liability to consider.

Mr. Kringler said a request was made at one of the pesticide trainings to get more information about the LAP out. Mr. Kringler would like to put an insert with information about the program into his next newsletter. Mr. Wolf said he would also like to disseminate information on spraying hay ditches.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS:

Cass County Youth Commission Bismarck trip	April 15
Soil Conservation board meeting	April 21
Earth Day	April 23, Bismarck
Weed Seed-Free Forage training/certification	April 28, Mandan
Weed Control Field Aide start date	May 18
Sprayer School	May 20, Carrington
ATV safety training	TBD

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM.

Minutes prepared by Brielle Edwards, Principal Secretary